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GRANT NO. DAMD17-95-1-5010

TITLE: Molecular Genetics and Pathogenesis of the Clostridia, First International Conference on the Molecular Genetics and Pathogenesis of the Clostridia

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REPORT DATE: December 1995

TYPE OF REPORT: Final Proceedings

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 4

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command  
Fort Detrick, Frederick, Maryland 21702-5012

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**THIS REPORT IS COMPLETE AS IS, THE ABSTRACT  
IS CONSIDERED PAGE 2, PER JUDY PAWLUS OF  
ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH & MATERIAL COMMAND  
FT DETRICK, FREDERICK, MD.**

**FEBRUARY 28, 1996**

**(301) 619-7322**

**DSN: 343-7322**

# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved  
OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)			2. REPORT DATE		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED		
			December 1995		Final Proceedings (15 Nov 94 - 14 Nov 95)		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE			The 1st International Meeting on the Molecular Genetics and Pathogenesis of the Clostridia		5. FUNDING NUMBERS		
					DAMD17-95-1-5010		
6. AUTHOR(S)			Dr. J. Glenn Songer				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona 85721		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick Frederick, Maryland 21702-5012		10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES							
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT				12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE			
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited							
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)							
Recent increases in the understanding of clostridial genetics and pathogenesis prompted the planning of the First International Conference on the Molecular Genetics and Pathogenesis of the Clostridia. The specific aims of the Conference were to provide a centralized, broad-based forum on new developments, with particular emphasis on molecular biology, to encourage new insights, especially the identification of common themes in clostridial genetics and pathogenesis, to help train the next generation of clostridial researchers, to bring together basic and clinical scientists, stimulating the development of new ideas, perspectives, and collaborations, and to encourage reactivation of interest by the veterinary community in clostridial disease.							
Overall, the conference included 82 talks and posters, presented in eight oral and two poster sessions. Dr. Madelaine Sebald presented the keynote address 'The Development of Clostridial Genetics'. The oral sessions included "Clostridia in Clinical Practice," "Genome Organization and Molecular Genetics," "Membrane-Active Toxins and Enzymes," "Neurotoxins," "Enterotoxins," "Host-Pathogen Interactions," "Regulation of virulence," and "Prophylaxis, Therapy and Diagnosis." There were also two afternoon poster sessions, which complemented the oral sessions. Overall, the conference was well received by both participants and organizers.							
14. SUBJECT TERMS					15. NUMBER OF PAGES		
Clostridium, genetics, pathogenesis, molecular biology, infectious disease					2		
					16. PRICE		
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT		18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE		19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT		20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	
Unclassified		Unclassified		Unclassified		Unlimited	